

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claim 27. Thus, claims 1-3, 5-6, 9, 12-14, 17-22, 24-25, 28 and 29 are now pending in the application.

Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yapel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,906,862). Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yapel et al.

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 27 and rewritten allowable dependent claims 28 and 29 in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1.¹ Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9, 28 and 29 are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

¹ As indicated in the Advisory Action dated February 23, 2005, the Amendment filed January 28, 2005 has overcome § 112, first paragraph, rejection of claims 27-29 and placed these claims in condition for allowance if rewritten in independent form.

SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/895,264

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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